



Chautauqua Sports Hall of Fame

OCTOBER 2010

Marion "Muddy" Rizzo 1921-2010



The Board of Directors of the Chautauqua Sports Hall of Fame extends condolences to the family of 1988 inductee Marion "Muddy" Rizzo, who died September 18th. Muddy formerly served on the Board of the CSHoF. His biography appears below.

Marion "Muddy" Rizzo spent most of his life in Chautauqua County and had an impressive career at Falconer Central School.

Rizzo earned 15 out of a possible 16 varsity letters from 1936-1940 while competing in football, basketball, baseball and track for the Golden Falcons. He was recipient of the All-Southwestern Conference football team award, the All-Lake Shore League basketball team award, All-Star Tournament Basketball Player Award and Most Valuable Player awards.

Rizzo received a football scholarship to King College in Bristol, Tennessee, after a two-week tryout. King College eventually discontinued football but he retained his scholarship because he was one of two people selected to serve as supervisor of a required physical education program for students enlisted as military reservists.

While in Bristol, Rizzo started playing for a Class D pro baseball team, the Bristol Twins, a farm club of the New York Giants. His performance during the summer of 1943 earned him a tryout with the Giants at the Polo Grounds in 1944, but Rizzo was unable to attend because he was on active duty as a Navy officer in Europe preparing for the invasion of Normandy.

Also while at King college, he was on the basketball team from 1940-1943. Rizzo was an assistant football coach to "Tex" Dain at Jefferson Junior High School from 1948-1952 and from 1948-1968 he was a member of the Chautauqua Chapter of Certified Football and Basketball Officials. He was also a member of national and international affiliation of chapters of certified Football and Basketball Officials.

He was a guidance counselor at Jefferson Junior High from 1952-1967, later became principal followed by being a guidance counselor at Jamestown High School until he retired in 1985 after 37 years in the Jamestown Public School system.

Swanson Named to Wake Forest Hall of Fame

Nolan Swanson, a 2003 inductee of the CSHoF will receive Wake Forest University's highest athletic honor when he is inducted into the Demon Deacon's Sports Hall of Fame on November 19, 2010. He will be recognized for the outstanding cross-country and track and field career he established at the Atlantic Coast Conference school from 1994-1999

Swanson, a Sherman Central School graduate, resides in Westfield with his wife Amy and their three sons, and is the co-owner of Pinehurst Golf Club located in Westfield.

www.chautauquasportshalloffame/nolanswanson.php



Stateline Speedway – The First Ten Years (1956-1965)

A documentary movie titled *Stateline Speedway – The First Ten Years (1956-1965)* has recently been produced by CSHoF Vice-President Randy Anderson and his associates Greg Peterson and Randy Sweeney. The film chronicles the first decade in the 55-year (and counting) history of Stateline Speedway, located just south of Jamestown, NY. The trio of film makers used interviews with over fifty former participants, hundreds of pictures from the estate of photographer Gordon Mahan, vintage home movies, newspaper clippings and track programs.

The movie tells the story of the original track owners Leonard Briggs, Lloyd Williams, Jerry Frank, Don Frank and Marv Thorpe. It also relates the daring escapades of legendary drivers Squirt Johns, Bobby Schnars, Emory Mahan, Hyle Russell, Joe Sauner, Tom Dill, Freddy Knapp, Floyd Fanale, Kenny Johnson, Dean Layfield, Jim Patrick, Ronnie Blackmer, Eddie Kisko and Sammy LaMancuso, among others.

Dvd copies of the film can be purchased at the Chautauqua Region Community Foundation, 418 Spring Street in Jamestown or by downloading the order form located at www.chautauquasportshalloffame.org.
